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Vol. V. Further Accounts of Birds of Yucatan. Description of *Pyranga roseo-gularis.* The Dodo a Rasorial and not a Rapacious Bird.

WILLIAM SMITH CLARK, M. A., PH. D., LL. D.

William Smith Clark, M. A., Ph. D., LL. D., son of Dr. Atherton and Harriet (Smith) Clark, was born, July 31, 1826, at Ashfield, Mass., and received his early education there and at Williston Seminary, Easthampton. Graduating from Amherst College in 1848, he returned to Williston Seminary, where he taught the natural sciences from 1848 to 1850. He then went abroad, and for the next two years devoted himself to the study of chemistry and botany at Göttingen, Germany, receiving from that University the degree of Ph. D., in 1852.

On his return to this country, he was elected to the Chair of Chemistry, Botany, and Zoölogy in Amherst College, performing the duties of that position from 1852 to 1858, and of the Chair of Chemistry alone from 1858 to 1867, when he resigned to accept the Presidency of the Massachusetts Agricultural College. This, and the Professorship of Botany and Horticulture, he held from 1867 to 1879. He then became interested in the project of a "floating college," and being made President, bent all his energies, during the years 1879 and 1880, to developing this scheme of uniting scientific study with a trip round the world. It was abandoned, however, on the sudden death of its originator, Mr. Woodruff. He subsequently engaged in mining operations; and the last few years of his life were spent quietly at his home in Amherst, vainly battling with the disease which had already sapped the foundations of his life. He died at his home, on March 9, 1886, from an affection of the heart.

At the breaking out of the war, in 1861, he hastened from the lecture-room to offer his services in the field, and received a commission as Major in the 21st Massachusetts Volunteers, in August, 1861.

A born leader of men, he was quickly promoted to be Lieutenant-Colonel, February, 1862; Colonel, May, 1862; and was recommended by General Burnside "for a well-deserved promotion" as Brigadier-General, in September of the same year. He participated in the battles of Roanoke Island, Newbern, Camden, N. C., the second battle of Manassas, Chantilly, the Antietam, and Fredericksburg. It was at the battle of Chantilly that, losing his way and becoming separated from the regiment, accompanied by only a handful of men, he was surrounded by the rebels and ordered to surrender. Preferring to run every risk rather than encounter the horrors of Andersonville or Libby, a desperate effort was made to escape, but all were shot down except himself. Bullets whistled through his cap and clothing, but unhurt he reached the cover of the woods, and lay concealed within the enemy's lines for three days, suffering from hunger and exposure, until finally he reached the Union forces in safety, and was welcomed as one returned from the dead, for he had been reported among the fallen.

His was a busy life, spent in the service of others. Never for a moment did he shrink from the duties of the hour, or hesitate to assume the responsibilities laid upon him. He was a member at large of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture from 1859 to 1861, and member *ex officio* from 1876 to 1879; one of a commission of three appointed by Governor Andrew to consider the expediency of establishing a State Military Academy, in 1863; Presidential Elector and Secretary of the Electoral College in 1864; Representative to the legislature in 1864, 1865, and 1867; and trustee of several academic institutions. While still connected with the Massachusetts Agricultural College, he was invited by the Japanese government to establish and organize the Imperial College of Agriculture, at Sapporo, Japan, and during the two years (1876–77) of his residence there continued to preside over the interests of both colleges. The same success that attended his efforts at home followed him abroad, and he gathered about him a corps of enthusiastic teachers and students which has made the college a most important factor in the educational force of the country. With his trained eye and keen powers of observation, he was quick to perceive, amid the new Flora by which he was surrounded, those plants worthy of being introduced into this country; and among those he was instrumental in thus introducing may be mentioned the beautiful deciduous shade tree, the *Cercidophyllum Japonicum*, the vigorous and hardy *Actinidia arguta*, and the climbing *Schizophragma hydrangoides*. In addition to these, he sent home from Northern Japan a large assortment of seeds of plants already known, but of special value to Massachusetts from the high latitude from which they were selected. Nothing escaped his scrutiny; and on the side of Mount Tieni, at an elevation of 3,200 feet, he discovered a new lichen, named by Professor Tuckerman, in his honor, the *Cetraria Clarkii.* The seeds of the umbrella pine, the *Ciadopetis verticellata,* which previous to his visit it had been difficult to obtain on account of the veneration in which the tree was held by the natives, he procured in large quantities, sending a man far up into the mountains to fell a tree and gather the cones before they opened and scattered their seeds.

President Clark received the degree of LL. D. from Amherst College in 1874. He had been a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences since 1868, was a member of the Massachusetts Horticultural and New England Agricultural Societies, honorary member of the Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture, and resident member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. He was author of the following papers in Liebig's Annalen: "Ueber Chlormagnesium-Ammoniak," 1851; "Analyse des Steinmarks aus dem Sächsischen Topasfels," 1851; and "Analysen von Meteoreisen," 1852. He contributed the following articles to the Annual Reports of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture: "Report on Horses," 1859 and 1860; "Professional Education the Present Want of Agriculture"; "The Work and the Wants of the Agricultural College," 1868; "The Cultivation of Cereals," 1868; "Nature's Modes of distributing Plants," 1870; "The Relations of Botany to Agriculture," 1872; "The Circulation of Sap in Plants," 1873; "Observations on the Phenomena of Plant Life," 1874; and "Agriculture of Japan," 1878. He translated, for use in the Massachusetts Agricultural College, the Blow-pipe Manual of Professor Scheerer, 1869.

Following the investigations of Hales in the early part of the eighteenth century, he carried on a series of novel experiments, in 1873–74, relative to the circulation of sap in plants, and the expansive force exerted by the vegetable cell in its growth. The squash he had selected for observation, in its iron harness, lifting five thousand pounds before it ceased to grow, excited attention far and wide, and was visited by hundreds. But his best work was as an educator. The years spent as Professor in Amherst College and as President in the Massachusetts and Japanese Agricultural Colleges were not in vain. Bringing to the lecture-room that intense enthusiasm and personal magnetism so characteristic of the man, he quickly established a bond of sympathy between teacher and scholar that was never broken. He infused his own buoyant nature into all with whom he was brought in contact, and reduced to a minimum the strained relations of pupil and instructor. The same brilliant qualities that attracted men in the outside world made themselves felt in his teaching. The dry details of science were enlivened by the light play of his fancy, and the charming method of his teaching seldom failed of arousing the dullest intellect. Frank, impetuous, and generous, he was welcomed everywhere; and none more sincerely mourn him than those who knew him best as teacher, soldier, and associate.

He was married, May 25, 1853, to Harrietta Keopuolani Richards, daughter of Rev. William Richards, of the Sandwich Islands, and adopted daughter of Samuel Williston of Easthampton.

GEORGE BASIL DIXWELL.

George Basil Dixwell was born in Boston on the 15th of December, 1814, being the third son of John Dixwell, M. D., H. C. 1796. He was fitted for college at the Boston Public Latin School, and passed the examination for admittance to Harvard in 1830. Although an excellent scholar and very promising in all departments of study, circumstances induced him to adopt a commercial career; and, after a thorough preliminary training in a counting-house, he accompanied his elder brother to India, and there began the life of a merchant, which he pursued with few intermissions for the remainder of his life, partly in Hindustan, but principally in China. His early education and his natural bias turned him to the acquisition of languages and to the study of mathematics. He became an expert in the Hindustani, and used it in his commercial intercourse with the natives of India. Afterwards, while in China for about fifteen years, he studied the Mandarin dialect, and became an accomplished speaker and writer of that language.

He was for several years the Russian Consul-General at Hong Kong, and he was also for some time the head of the municipal government at Shanghae.

He had a strong bias toward scientific investigation, and cultivated the mathematics and physics, and later in life paid much attention to dialectics.

On his final return to America in 1873, he entered on a course of investigation and experiment in regard to the use of superheated steam, with results which were hailed by some scientists as of very great value in view of practical improvement in the use of the steam-